

Post 9/11 Attorney Charged in Quentin Case

By Mike Silverman
Associated Press

SAN RAFAEL, Calif., Aug. 31—Five counts of murder were filed today against attorney Stephen Mitchell Bingham, described by San Quentin Prison authorities as the last man to visit Soledad Brother George Jackson before an escape attempt that left six men dead on Aug. 21.

Marin County District Attorney Bruce Bales told a news conference his investigation had convinced him that Jackson could only have obtained a gun used in the violence during a visit from the 29-year-old attorney.

Bingham, grandson of the late Connecticut Gov. and Sen. Hiram Bingham, was charged under a California law that holds an accomplice equally responsible with the person who actually commits a crime.

Jackson was shot dead by tower guards outside the prison's Adjustment Center where he and the other dead inmates were housed.

Prison officials had said that Jackson underwent a thorough "skin" search before meeting with Bingham in a visiting room, and pulled a 9-mm pistol from a wig on returning to the Adjustment Center to set off the escape attempt.

The prison says the gun had been purchased by a Black Panther.

"I have reached the conclusion," District Attorney Bales said, "that there is no other way that Jackson could have obtained the death gun except during his visit with Bingham just before the killings commenced."

See QUENTIN, A9, Col. 3

Jackson's Attorney Charged With 5 Counts of Murder

QUENTIN, From A1

In a criminal complaint filed in Marin County Municipal Court, Bales said that within half an hour after Jackson pulled the gun, officers Frank P. DeLeon, 44, Paul Krasenes, 52, and Sgt. Jere Graham, 39, lay dead in Jackson's cell, two killed by gunshot wound to the back of the head, and one by deep cuts to the throat.

The bodies of inmates John Lynn, 29, and Ronald L. Kane, 28, also were found in the cell he added.

Bales said Jackson "killed at least one of the correctional officers" with the pistol, which was found on his body along with clips containing live ammunition.

The district attorney said it would not be appropriate to charge Bingham in Jackson's death. A warrant asking that Bingham be arrested and held without bail was issued by a municipal judge in San Rafael.

Bingham is charged under the same California law under which Angela Davis is accused of murder, kidnaping and conspiracy in the Aug. 7, 1970, Marin County courthouse shootout that took four lives, including that of George Jackson's 17-year-old brother, Jonathan.

She is accused of supplying the guns and helping plot an apparent escape attempt by two inmates who were on trial, but not with being present at the shootout.

Bales said he had turned up additional evidence over the weekend which "appears to rule out the unknowing or in-



JOHN ARMS SR.

... saw "needless bloodshed"

nocent transportation of the gun into the prison by Bingham."

Bingham's father, semi-retired attorney Alfred M. Bingham, 66, of Salem, Conn., had told a news conference in Berkeley on Aug. 25 that "it was possible Steve could have been involved in bringing a pistol to George Jackson without my son knowing it."

Bales said he had asked the FBI to help locate young Bingham, who has not been seen publicly since Aug. 21.

Bales would not say if he agrees with earlier statements by San Quentin Associate Warden James Park that the gun was smuggled into the prison in a tape recorder. But Bales' complaint notes that Bingham filled out a request form to bring a recorder into the visiting room with him.

The complaint also said that Bingham carried into the visit-

ing room "a carrying case approximately 18 inches by 24 inches and an expanding folder envelope," but does not say whether he took them when he left.

Bales said "the fact of Bingham's sudden and complete disappearance, directly following the terrible and tragic events that he triggered at San Quentin is not insignificant, especially in view of the repeated public requests for him to come in and discuss the case with me."

Bingham, a 1969 graduate of Boalt Hall, the University of California's Berkeley law school, was attorney with Patrick Hallinan for James Carr, a former cellmate of Jackson's who was charged with assaulting a policeman at a pretrial hearing last April in San Francisco.

Bingham was accompanied to San Quentin on Aug. 21 by a woman whom prison officials have identified as Vanitia Anderson, 23, who told them she was an investigator for an East Bay law firm and who signed in with the address of the Berkeley office of the Black Panther party. She was not admitted to see Jackson.

Bales said he is "still interested in talking to her," but added he plans no complaints against anyone else at this point.

Since the Aug. 21 bloodshed, eight San Quentin guards have resigned.

One of the guards, John Arms Sr., a 20-year veteran who quit Friday, said: "My insides are torn out. I've seen all the useless, needless bloodshed I can see and still live with myself."